



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Gregory G. Lockhart
Southern District of Ohio

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CONTACT: Fred Alverson
614-469-5715

BUTLER COUNTY AUDITOR PLEADS GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY, TAX CRIMES

CINCINNATI -- Butler County Auditor Mary C. Rogers pleaded guilty in United States District Court here to one count of conspiracy to commit bank and mail fraud and one count of filing a false income tax return.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Keith L. Bennett, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Cincinnati Division and Jose A. Gonzalez, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation announced the plea entered before Chief United States District Judge Sandra S. Beckwith.

According to a statement of facts filed with her plea agreement, Rogers conspired to commit bank fraud and mail fraud from August 2004 to March 2006 by assisting in making false representations to National City Bank. These false representations included that a certain company was authorized to do business with the county and that the company had completed certain work even though she knew the work had not been done. Relying in part on her false representations, National City paid the company \$4 million on December 31, 2004. Rogers also signed various documents that purported to commit Butler County to making various obligations. In signing those documents, Rogers knew she exceeded her authority as the county auditor. Others used the documents to help induce payments from National City.

Rogers also admitted to not reporting more than \$56,000 she received from income tax preparation and accounting services in tax years 2001 through 2006.

Conspiracy to commit bank fraud and mail fraud is punishable by up to 30 years imprisonment. Filing a false income tax return is punishable by up to three years imprisonment.

Rogers was first elected Butler County Auditor in 1994 and took office in 1995.

Lockhart commended the cooperative investigation by FBI and IRS Criminal Investigation agents.

Judge Beckwith will schedule a date for sentencing.

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